

claim 1. Namely, that a station on either section of the bus may communicate with a station on the other station of the bus by using a dummy address for that section with the address remapper handling the conversion of the dummy address back to a physical address on the correct section.

The PCI bridge described in the Blackledge, Jr., et al. patent operates by examining the input address range to determine if it corresponds to a device on its expansion bus. Please see, for example, column 5, lines 55-60. It is also evident that this is an important feature of the Blackledge, Jr., et al. invention in as much as the Applicant thereof saw fit to claim it. See, for example, the filter element of claim 1 of that patent. If the address corresponds to a device on the bus, then Blackledge, Jr., et al.'s PCI bridge will modify the input address to correspond to another on its output. This functionality is basically a unidirectional filter, whereby the PCI bridge can only accept and actively reassign addresses coming from the master side of the bus.

The Applicant's invention, as claimed by claim 1, is different. The address remapper or the present invention operates in a passive fashion by translating all addresses presented on either side of the device to a corresponding device address on the other side of the bus. See, for example, Figure 1. When a message is sent from the station 6 on the right section 4 to station 5 on the left section 3, this message is sent with address 1011001 which corresponds to the dummy address of station 5 for station 6. When that message is passed from the right section 4 to the left section 3, the address remapper changes the address into 1010001, so that the message on the left section is actually received by station 5.

This functionality permits stations on one side of the bus to share the same physical address as stations on the other side of the bus, yet a station on one side of the bus can differentiate between such stations, since the station on the same side of the bus has its own physical address and the station on the other side of the bus has its dummy address, which are different. This feature works bi-directionally, so that it works both ways on the bus. Blackledge, Jr., et al., does not do this.

Claims 16 and 17 are new. Claim 16 specifically recites that the “address remapper” remaps “dummy addresses on either section of the bus into a corresponding physical address on the other section of the bus.” As indicated above, Blackledge, Jr., et al., does not have that functionality. As a result, “a station on one portion of the bus and another station on the other portion of the bus” may “show a common physical address” as indicated by claim 17.

Reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

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(Date of Deposit)

RICHARD P. BERG
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

August 29, 2001
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

Richard P. Berg
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 28,145
LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036
(323) 934-2300

Appendix

1. A bus, having at least an address remapper defining two sections in the bus, each section comprising at least one station having a physical address, wherein [a] stations on [one] each section of the bus are each assigned a dummy address for being addressed by a station on the other section, the address remapper remapping a dummy address from [the other] one section into a physical address to the [one] other section.